that hundreds of trees on 60th the sides of National Highway from Rourkela to Sambalpur were cut down as part of the development work of the National Highways;

(b) if so, the number of the trees cut down and the amount received out of the sale of such trees; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to plant new trees on both sides of the National Highways, the name of the organisation entrusted with plantation programme and the time Schedule fixed for such plantation ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Necessary information is being collected from the State Government.

[Translation]

Implementation of Wasteland Projects

5726. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had organised a conference of the representatives of states in the last months to consider the implementation of wasteland projects;

(b) if so, whether the implementation of projects were reviewed in that conference;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the projects satisfactorily in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A meeting was convened by the Department of Wastelands Development to review the various Plan schemes of the Department and also to get a feedback from the States in regard to the difficulties being faced by them at the field level in implementation of the wastelands development projects and as to how to overcome these difficulties. State Secretaries have been asked to ensure implementation of the projects with active participation of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and local people in accordance with the provisions contained in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development. Close monitoring and inspection of the projects have also been emphasised.

[English]

Expenditure on National Highways in Maharashtra

5727. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred on widening of National Highways and strengthening of the existing double lane carriageway in Maharashtra during the last two years; and

(b) the details of the proposals proposed to be executed during the current year and the expenditure proposed to be incurred in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The funds allocated for National Highway (Original) works including widening/ strengthening in the Maharashtra State is as under :

1995-96	:	Rs. 28.99 crores
1996-97	:	Rs. 19.70 crores

(b) Works worth Rs. 68.00 crores are proposed to be taken up during 1997-98 in Maharashtra State. However, it is too early to indicate the expenditure to be incurred for these works at this stage.

Inter-State Water Dispute

5728. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of Inter-State Council to settle Inter-State water dispute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No Inter-State water dispute has been referred to the Inter-State Council Secretariat so far.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation for Irrigation

5729. SHRI NIHAR CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocated for irrigation during the First Five Year Plan and the area of irrigable land;